

IOWA BOARD OF NURSING

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In RE: Reconsideration of	)	Declaratory Ruling No. 37
Declaratory Ruling No. 20	)	
	)	Intubation

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A petition for reconsideration of Declaratory Ruling No. 20 was filed with the Iowa Board of Nursing by D.W. Crabb, M.D., Denison Medical & Surgical Associates, P.C., Denison, Iowa, on January 18, 1989.

The question presented in the original petition was:

May an Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Certified Registered Nurse at Floyd County Memorial Hospital intubate a patient in an emergency situation?

Our interpretation of the questions presented in Dr. Crabb's petition is:

1. May physicians provide appropriate inservice education programs?

2. May ACLS Certified Registered Nurses demonstrate competency on the intubation "Annie" instead of live patients?

The Board is authorized to issue declaratory rulings "as to the applicability of any statutory provision, rule or other written statement of law or policy, decision or order of the agency" pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.9 (1987). See also Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], Chapter 9.

The Iowa Board of Nursing considers intubation to be within the scope of practice of an ACLS Certified Registered Nurse.

Rationale

Iowa Administrative Code, Nursing Board [655], § 6.2(5) states:

The registered nurse shall recognize and understand the legal implications of accountability. Accountability includes but need not be limited to the following:

a. Performing or supervising those activities and functions which require the knowledge and skill level currently ascribed to the registered nurse and seeking assistance when activities and functions are beyond the licensee's scope of preparation.

The ACLS course includes training on mannequin intubation.

In the event of an emergency there are often no physicians, nurse anesthetists or respiratory therapists in the hospital to intubate the patient. The ACLS Certified Registered Nurse is the only professional available to intubate.

The ACLS Certified Registered Nurse may intubate a patient when:

1. The nurse has completed an appropriate inservice education program conducted by an anesthesiologist, nurse anesthetist, or physician whose practice includes intubation. The nurse successfully demonstrated his/her competency on an annual basis. Documentation thereof is contained in the nurse's personnel file.

2. The institution has a written policy identifying that the procedure is acceptable practice for the nurse in that facility.

This declaratory ruling rescinds Declaratory Ruling No. 20 and this ruling is substituted in its place.

#### References:

Don Frazen, CRNA, Des Moines, Iowa

James Kimball, M.D., Des Moines, IA

Pepe, Paul E., Copass, Michael K., Joyce, Thomas J. (1985)  
Prehospital Endotracheal Intubation: Rationale for Training  
Emergency Medical Personnel. Annals of Emergency Medicine,  
11, 1085-1092.

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March 3, 1989  
Date

March 3, 1989  
Date